

2012-13 WIDA Communications from OSA

July 22, 2013 - WIDA W-APT Credentials Issued to Existing ELPA Coordinators

The State of Michigan recently adopted the WIDA standards and assessment system for English learners (ELs). This transition will include several steps, and we are ready to begin the transition by providing access to the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) screener assessment and training materials, which are downloadable for free from the WIDA website [after secure login](#). As you may recall, the W-APT is replacing the prior “ELPA Screener” and will be used for identification and placement of students who are new to a particular school or district and who may be eligible for EL support services.

The [secure](#) W-APT section of the WIDA website contains several materials that you are strongly advised to review prior to administering the W-APT in your district:

- W-APT Recorded Webinar Trainings
- W-APT Download and Printing Instructions
- W-APT Test Administration Manuals for Kindergarten and Grades 1-12
- W-APT Scored Student Writing Sample Booklet

All existing ELPA Coordinators in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) will be automatically added to WIDA’s system for W-APT access and will receive an email containing their secure login information on or around August 1, 2013. To ensure you receive the message, please check your district’s spam or junk mail folders and/or check with a technical coordinator to be certain that your system is not blocking messages from help@wida.us or widahelp@wcer.wisc.edu. Also, please be sure the proper individuals are identified in the EEM and have the correct contact information (especially email address).

If you have any questions, concerns, or difficulty accessing the materials once you receive your login information, please contact the WIDA Help Desk at toll free 1-866-276-7735 or help@wida.us.

July 8, 2013 - Fall 2013 WIDA W-APT Upcoming Training Opportunities

The Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) will be hosting four WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) trainings. These training opportunities will be held in the Lake Michigan room at the Michigan Library and Historical Center located at 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48909, on **Wednesday, August 7, 2013 and Thursday, August 8, 2013**. Beginning with the upcoming 2013-14 school year, the W-APT will replace the ELPA Initial Screening tool, which is used to aid in the identification of potential English learners (ELs).

The purpose of this training is to train EL Assessment Coordinators (ELPA/WIDA Coordinators) on the administration and scoring practices of the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT). Because space is limited to 50 participants per session, we ask that you please send only one representative from your district to attend one of the W-APT trainings. Please note that each of these four sessions are “repeat” sessions, covering the same information each time. The OSA is actively working toward offering these four sessions via WebEx; however, until those details are confirmed, please plan to send one representative to one of the four in-person events listed below.

August 7, 2013

- 8:00 – 11:30 AM
- 12:30 – 4:00 PM

August 8, 2013

- 8:00 – 11:30 AM
- 12:30 – 4:00 PM

To confirm your participation, we request that you respond via email with your desired session date/time, your name, and the district you are representing to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov. Upon receipt of your confirmation, driving directions/parking information will be sent to you. Space is limited so be sure to **confirm by**

Monday, July 29, 2013. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please know that more training opportunities and online professional development materials will be available shortly via WIDA's website as well as OSA's.

June 24, 2013 - ELPA Screener Materials

Due to the replacement of the ELPA Initial Screening with the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT) this fall, please remember to securely destroy any unused ELPA Initial Screening materials by July 26th. Please only return used materials (answer documents and booklets with student responses) to MDE. Unused materials such as Test Administration Manuals and Test Booklets that do not have student responses in them DO NOT need to be returned. If needed, the last date to order any ELPA Initial Screening Materials is **July 12th**. The last date to use the ELPA Initial Screening and enter scores into the Secure Site is **July 26th**. Additional information about use of the W-APT for the upcoming school year will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

May 13, 2013 - WIDA WebEx

The Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) will be hosting two high-level WIDA Assessment of English Proficiency WebEx sessions which will be held on **Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from 11:00a.m.-11:30 a.m.** and **Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** The purpose of the WebEx is to give assessment coordinators an overview of the transition to WIDA and to answer any general questions. This WebEx is not intended to be a training session, but rather an informational session covering Michigan's transition to WIDA.

To confirm your participation, we are requesting that you respond via email to Cristina Rodriguez at rodriguezc@michigan.gov. Please indicate the day that you would like to participate. Upon receipt of your confirmation, instructions will be sent to you on how to access the WebEx. Space is limited, so be sure to **confirm by Monday, May 20, 2013.**

April 15, 2013 - Michigan is Moving to the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT)

The ELPA Initial Screening is being replaced by the WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT). Michigan's move to WIDA for English language proficiency screening and assessment presents an opportunity to join 31 other states in providing quality assessments, the development of which are effectively shared across the member states.

Many aspects of the W-APT are similar to the ELPA Initial Screening; however there will be some significant changes that we have highlighted below:

- **Reusable Materials, On Demand** – Unlike the ELPA Initial Screening, you will no longer have to order materials from the BAA. Materials can be printed on demand directly from WIDA's website. Test booklets are only used by the person administering the test, not one per student. They can also be reused, so printing will be minimal.
- **Administration** - The W-APT is designed to be individually administered and adaptive, meaning that parts of the test may be discontinued as soon as the student reaches his or her performance "ceiling."
- **Material Returns** – Because materials are printed on demand, there will be no need to return materials to the BAA.

The BAA and WIDA will be working closely together in the coming months to develop a comprehensive training plan that will cover all aspects of the transition to the W-APT. Further details about the transition and its timing will be forthcoming.

Questions?

For assessment questions, please email baa@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option. Please remember that spring ELPA questions should be directed to Questar (menu option 5); however, ELPA Screener questions should be directed to BAA (menu option 7).

April 8, 2013 - Transition from ELPA to WIDA

The Michigan Department of Education has recently approved the transition to the assessment system linked to the state's newly-adopted World-Class Instructional Design & Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development (ELD) Standards for English learners (ELs).

This new assessment system includes a paper-pencil summative assessment, the ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing

Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State), which will replace the current summative Spring English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). Additionally, a new paper-pencil screener, the W-APT (WIDA ACCESS Placement Test) will replace Michigan's current ELPA Initial Screening (Screener) for the purposes of aiding in the identification of students who are potentially eligible for Limited English Proficient (LEP) services.

It is expected that the W-APT will be in use by districts beginning this August with the summative ACCESS for ELLs used as the annual assessment for the Spring of 2014.

The Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) and the Office of Field Services (OFS) are working to develop professional development and training opportunities surrounding the new standards and assessments for educators. Please look for this calendar of events as well as for more information about the transition in the near future. Direct any assessment related questions to BAA at 1-877-560-8378, option 7 or e-mail baa@michigan.gov.

Questions?

For assessment questions, please email baa@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option. Please remember that spring ELPA questions should be directed to Questar (menu option 5); however, ELPA Screener questions should be directed to BAA (menu option 7).